

The Times-Dispatch

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1913.

THE STATE OF THE UNION?

The first annual message of President Wilson to the Congress will take rank with the most statesmanlike utterances that have come from the chief magistrates of the republic. It will immensely strengthen the administration with the country because it has unfolded clearly and lucidly the purposes of our government. Its projects in bold relief the chart of the way which the nation must walk and the things that it must do.

In this message the President has broken an execrable precedent and set an admirable one in his decision not to overwhelm the Congress with a long catalogue of routine recommendations as to departmental matters. He selected out certain important problems and gave to the country an exposition so clear, so definite and so concise that the country will read and ponder it with the inevitable enthusiasm that is the once-critical, indifferent and hostile will uphold the course of the party of which he is not only the titular but the very real leader.

Councils of reasonableness abounded in the utterance, as is particularly the case in relation to the forthcoming tariff legislation on the administration's constructive program. The action proposed is not drastic, but supplemental. Let the Sherman law stand, reinforce it and supplement it, but let it still be the backbone of our antimonopoly policy. To honest business comes here an admittance to be of good courage. "It is of capital importance that the business men of this country should be relieved of all uncertainty of law with regard to their enterprises and investments, and a clear path indicated where they can travel without anxiety. It is so important that they should be relieved of embarrassment and set free to prosper as that private monopoly should be destroyed."

Not without its significance is the fact that the problem given most attention in the message is that of rural credits, which involves the entire agricultural situation in the United States. The need for an effective system of farm credits endows a sentence of eloquent beauty: "It is from the quiet recesses of the open valleys and the free mind that we draw the sources of life and of prosperity ... without those every street would be silent, every office deserted, every factory fallen into disrepair." The emphasis laid upon the question will indubitably hasten action for the farmer's relief.

"Our policy of watchful waiting" is the Presidents' definition of our attitude toward the Mexican situation, a part of the message in which there is naturally and wisely more reservation and restraint than in any other, as much as that it is really little more than a dignified historical statement. There is a certain force in this more silent element of the case, however, which will impress and influence the country.

The recommendation for nation-wide presidential primaries was that most inexperienced attachmen there is no reason why it should not have some now as well as at any other time. A year and a half ago discussion of the merits and demerits of that method of nominating candidates for the presidency made the public prints hedge. The weakness of such primaries is the weakness of all primaries and all elections—the small percentage of the qualified electors participating—but, with all its faults, the primary is an instrument of nomination never held the size of the convention system. The national convention recommended by the President is thoroughly consistent with the principles of popular rule and already prevails effectively in Washington.

The American people will seal this message with a sterner conviction of the justice and rightfulness of their new leadership.

The North Carolina goldfinch delegation must be a strenuous one in its support of the Cleveland-Poor-Bedford, in its issue of last Thursday, including the following three blazoning gables:

Virginia vs. North Carolina at Charlotte.

Washington and Lee vs. North Carolina at Fredericksburg.

Virginia vs. North Carolina at Richmond.

Now about that for a heavy day's schedule?

Life with the Congressman during the Wilson administration is just one session high after another.

The Navy might try the Army at water polo.

Some college football players are now doubtless under the guidance of a different kind of coach from that whom they have worked under for the past two months.

So many uses are being found for many heretofore thoroughly condemned plants that it would not surprise us any day to find that the national flower of the Old Dominion, the Jamestown weed, was suitable for a most succulent and tasty salad, served with a sort of mayonnaise made from the unique persimmon.

THE TIMES-DISPATCH: RICHMOND, VA., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1913.

THE BASIS OF A BUDGET SYSTEM.

The Senate of Virginia laid the foundation for a sounder fiscal policy for the Commonwealth when it ordered four years ago that its Finance Committee should convene in the capital prior to the session of the General Assembly, and, after hearing from the various interests involved, should frame a tentative appropriation bill.

Pursuant to this wise practice, the Senate Finance Committee will on December 16 again meet to consider the claims for funds to be made upon the General Assembly by the State departments and institutions. An orderly and deliberate consideration of many needs and demands can thus be had, and while the conclusions reached in the recommendations of the committee do not bind the body proper, they carry with them much force. The General Assembly of 1914 has a heavy calendar awaiting it, and to impose upon it lengthy hearings for appropriations would be fatal to the due deliberation upon the important issues which face the legislators for solution. The appropriation measure proposed by the Senate Finance Committee will be introduced on the first day, and made a special and continuing order. Even with a reasonable amount of discussion, it ought to be in shape for formal passage some time before the adjournment. The eleventh-hour disposition of the appropriation bill is an evil which we trust has disappeared in our legislature.

This procedure in Virginia forebodes, in our opinion, the ultimate establishment of a real budget system in Virginia. We need a far greater degree of permanency in our policy ordering appropriations for maintenance and fixed costs of departments and institutions. Permanent appropriations will take many institutions out of partisan politics and permit them to operate under permanent plans for their most efficient conduct. The fiscal policy of the State ought to be formulated before the legislative session by a competent legislative committee and should be prime factor in the budget of the Legislature. A budget is an instrument for planning future work and for securing closer co-operation between the work of the legislature and the work of the executive branches, to the end that greater economy, greater efficiency and greater permanency of policy may be established in government.

The movement for reform in procedure, for the United States Supreme Court, acting under the authority of Congress, has formulated, and put into effect rules governing the equity practice of the Federal courts. These changes have resulted in vast simplification of and cheapening of the procedure on the equity side of the Federal courts, and the Supreme Court will soon frame rules simplifying the procedure on the law side.

The Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia, through a simple change in existing statute, can be made the beneficent instrument of this reform.

The General Assembly need only make this statute mandatory instead of permissive and clear away all existing cloud as to the grant of power to the court to formulate rules and systems of pleading. Doubtless the Supreme Court of Appeals, though already encrossed in its ordinary duties, would willingly undertake the task, and no one will deny that it would be the appropriate revising power.

If the General Assembly orders this revision, such action will not only simplify and make less expensive the administration of justice, but will spare other States to like course.

THE KENTUCKY SENATORSHIP.

Not the least important of the contests for the United States Senate soon to be decided by popular vote is that in Kentucky, which promises to be intense. The term of William O. Bradley, Republican, ends in 1915, and if signs do not fall a Democrat will be chosen as his successor, since Kentucky is usually Democratic.

The main contests will come then in the Democratic primaries. Three active entries are in the field. They are Representative Stanley, former Governor Beckman and Governor McCreary.

Orville Stanley has an excellent record in the national House of Representatives. He was chairman of the committee which investigated the commissary of the state trust. He is a speaker of uncommon ability.

John Clegg Whittle Beckman was chosen Lieutenant-Governor of Kentucky on the ticket with Goebel in 1899, and succeeded to the governorship after the assassination of the latter. He served as Governor from 1900 to 1907. In 1908 he was Democratic senatorial candidate, but was defeated in that fight.

The Army of Tennessee was not defeated, nor was it routed in the recent three-days fight.

Clayburn's division engaged Osterhaus near Ringgold Friday morning, driving him back with a loss of 1,500, captured 300 prisoners and four stands of colors.

FROM CHARLESTON.

The enemy fired sixteen shells at the city Tuesday. The shelling of the city brought on a duel between Gregg and our batteries on James Island.

FROM THE TRANS-MISSISSIPPI.

The two Yankee arms corps of our troops have abandoned the camp in Louisiana, and that State is now as free from Yankee rule as when besieged Port Hudson.

The blockade of the Mississippi is maintained between the mouth of Red River and Morganza. Nothing but ironclads can pass.

FROM MEXICO.

Cortina, the Mexican guerrilla chief who pronounced against Juarez and for the French and holds Matamoras, increasing the difficulty of trade by the Rio Grande.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

William M. Brewster will publish a new monthly literary journal in Richmond.

Under the auspices of the Surgeon-General of the Confederate States and with the active assistance of the Association of Army and Navy Surgeons, a monthly medical and surgical journal is soon to be published. It will be made equal to any medical work now produced.

A NEW EXPRESSION OF LOYALTY.

The women of Memphis have ceased wearing hoop skirts, not to wear them but to be considered a badge of Confederate loyalty.

Here is a wood photograph of a certain President of the United States:

Though he sought a modest name, he had no mind to be timid; though he asked advice, he meant to be his own master. The editor of course once taken, he was bound to make a simple article, the dignity of the government had come into his keeping with the old Hauseforth who would pay no more calligraph to invitation.

He would invite persons of official rank or marksmanship to his table at suitable intervals. There should be no pretense of judgment, no parade of magnificence. The president should be a common man, the servant of the people. But he would not be common. It should be known that his office and authority were the first in the land.

Pretty good description of Woodrow Wilson, isn't it? It happens, however, to be his own portrayal of George Washington, published some years ago.

The Tarheels are already tuning up for next year after the customary gridiron triumph of Virginia over North Carolina Thanksgiving Day. The News and Observer says that "the showing was such that with the material in hand for next year's team there are the strongest hopes that in 1914 North Carolina will be the victor" while the Charlotte Observer sings that "the boys lost at Richmond, but they lost nobly, showing that they could have won with better luck and better timing." It was nothing less than a moral victory, and we may hope that it portends full victory next year. It seems to be a case of old North Carolina never tire.

We should thank Whitecomb Ridge the Horner who goes to Florida for his health when the Virginian climate is a pest for 250 days in the year.

Heavy sales of bum cigars are predicted toward the end of this month,

as follows at home, wherever his bicker is, regardless of his hat, when he is a college student and time

is money.

EDWARD HILL.

To what tongue does the word "pasear" belong, and exactly what does it mean?

EDWARD HILL.

It is Hindustani, and means a native sailor or a laborer employed about an arsenal or in the menial work of the artillery.

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